



# Last Positoid Standing: RIP Mike DeStefano

March 8, 2011 By [Shawn Decker](#)

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**Former Poz columnist, comedian and HIV educator Mike DeStefano passed to spirit suddenly on Sunday due to a heart attack. A lot of folks got to know his humor via his Top 5 finish on last year's season of Last Comic Standing. I had the privilege of meeting "Mikey D" through educating about HIV- it's a small world when you wear your HIV status on your sleeve.**

Since he wrote for POZ back in the day, I thought it would be good to share his first column for the magazine from 1998. [He wrote about being a long-term nonprogressor](#), and jokes about how his smoking habit will probably get him before hiv (in the column he refused to capitalize "HIV", not wanting to give it that towering power):

*"Still, what a pain in the ass this little piece of paper has been--the positive test result that has taken me through emotions I never even knew existed. And most frustrating of all, I know in my heart of hearts that because of these years of turmoil, I've become a pretty decent guy. It kills me to admit it, but somehow I needed this virus." - Mike DeStefano*

The HIV community needed you, Mikey. Thank you for your honesty, sense of humor and passion for sharing your experiences living with HIV.

Positively Yours,  
Shawn

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